

Progressives Win on August 8th!

Maria Chappelle-Nadal (H 72) won her primary in University City, Wellston, and Pagedale, with over 64% of the vote. Maria won despite being targeted for defeat by All Children Matter, a pro-private school voucher group funded by out-of-state billionaires. Their money was no match for Maria's progressive record and grassroots campaign.



Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal



Tom Haley

Tom Haley (H 47) in Lee's Summit won with over 77% of the vote. In the November General Election, Tom is running for an open seat— Tom can win if we progressives stay involved!

Bob Burns (H 85) in south St. Louis County won, capturing over 60% of the primary vote. Bob is a longtime member of the Teamsters (a member-group of Pro-Vote), and is poised to defeat ultra-right incumbent Jim Lembke in the November 7 General Election. A victory here sends a strong message to Jefferson City.

Jeanette Mott Oxford (H 59), a former Pro-Vote board member, was easily re-elected to her seat in St. Louis City. Jeanette, the first out lesbian ever elected to the Missouri General Assembly, garnered 81% of the vote, showing that voters in her district support her strong progressive platform.

Two of our candidates fell short, Ewell Lawson (H 9) in Mid Missouri and Jerry Young (H 45) in Kansas City. Congratulations to both of them for running spirited races.

The November 7 general elections are less than 45 days away. We are helping candidates across the state; please contact the closest Pro-Vote office and volunteer your time in this critical final period! If we can elect progressives on November 7, we can tie the hands of Governor Blunt and his right-wing cronies and stop them from continuing to take Missouri backwards.

Minimum Wage Initiative On Ballot

Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteer activists and dedicated staff, the initiative petition drive to put a minimum wage increase on the November 7 ballot was a success. Now, Missouri voters will have an opportunity to raise the minimum wage, which our do-nothing Republican Congress has refused to do for a decade. Meanwhile, the price of gasoline, healthcare, and housing has all gone up.

Proposition B would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2007. Future increases would be tied to the cost of living. Approximately 256,000 Missourians (10% of the state's workforce) would receive a raise. This includes 120,000 Missourians who earn less than \$6.50 per hour, and 136,000 workers making just over \$6.50 whose pay would increase from a "spillover" effect.



Pro-Vote organized 500 protesters to demand a higher minimum wage during President Bush's visit to Kansas City Friday.

Pro-Vote, along with our coalition partners SEIU, the AFL-CIO, and ACORN, are now gearing up to finish the job and pass the measure on November 7. We will need progressive activists across the state to help. If you can volunteer in the next 45 days until Election Day, please contact the nearest Pro-Vote office. If you can send a contribution, use the enclosed envelope. Your participation is essential to winning on November 7!

Visit our website, www.MissouriProVote.org, for more information on the minimum wage.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*"In the squares of the city—in the shadow of the steeple
Near the relief office—I see my people
And some are grumblin' and some are wonderin'
If this land's still made for you and me".*

Woody Guthrie, "This Land is Your Land"

When this newsletter arrives, there will be only about 45 days until Election Day. I am challenging all of our readers to commit to volunteer at least 15 hours by Election Day – that equals a 3 hour shift each week for 5 weeks.

We need your help going door to door, phoning voters, and stamping letters. We have strong progressive candidates across the state, from St. Louis to Kansas City, and Columbia to Springfield. There is a race close to you where your participation can make the difference. These state legislative contests will be decided by 100 votes or less, and your volunteer time could literally make the difference between winning and losing. For example, in 15 hours of doorknocking, you would talk to about 105 voters – that could be the race right there!

Pro-Vote has painstakingly built up a progressive infrastructure - experienced staff, office space, phones and computers – in four staffed offices across the state. Because of this, your volunteer time will be used effectively. Please contact the nearest Pro-Vote office to schedule times that you can help – and reach that 15 hour goal!

When you reach that goal, please email me at John@MissouriProVote.org - I want to know what you did, and what impact you had.

If we can win decisively on November 7, we can effectively neutralize President Bush and Governor Blunt's ability to legislate their far-right vision for our country and our state. That is surely worth 15 hours from each of us!

Attend the Progressive Awards Dinner Sept. 29



*Rep. Barbara Fraser, H83
Outstanding Legislator 2006*

Plan on attending the Annual Progressive Awards Dinner on Friday, September 29th, at the America's Convention Center in downtown St. Louis. Meet 400 of the most active progressives in the state, and honor our awardees who are leaders in the struggle for a more just Missouri.

Representative Barbara Fraser will receive the Progressive Legislator Award. Barb has served eight years in the Missouri House. She has not only voted 100% progressive, but also helped lead the fight in Jeff City for progressive causes.

The Outstanding Community Organization will go to People for Public Schools, a broad coalition that succeeded in defeating private school voucher legislation during the 2006 session. Accepting the award will be Scott Ciafullo from AFT MO and Chris Guinther from the MNEA.

Give Missourians a Raise, the coalition that put the minimum wage increase on the ballot (see article on page 1), will receive the Outstanding Labor Organization Award, with Sherwin Carroll from SEIU Local 1 accepting the award.

Finally, the Lifetime Achievement Award will go to Joan Suarez, longtime labor leader with UNITE-HERE! Currently, Joan devotes her time to Jobs with Justice, the Workers Rights Board, and immigrant rights. If you don't know Joan already, come to the dinner and meet a real local hero!

Call 314-531-2288 for tickets, which are \$75 each. Your contribution will help raise the minimum wage and elect progressive legislators across the state.

Watch Laborvision

Pro-Vote's public affairs cable television program Laborvision can now be seen in Springfield, Missouri! Tune in to cable channel 26 on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, and let us know what you think! Email Julie at mo-provot@mindspring.com.



St. Louis City (Channel 21)

Monday @ 8 pm
Thursday @ 8 pm
Friday @ 1 pm
Saturday @ 4:30 pm

St. Louis & Jefferson County and Alton, East St. Louis, & Belleville Illinois (Channel 18)

Wednesday @ 7:30 pm

St. Peters/St. Charles (Channel 18)

Wednesday @ 7:30 pm
Saturday @ 4:30 pm
Sunday @ 1 pm

Jefferson City (Channel 3)

Tuesday @ 6:30 pm
Thursday @ 12 noon

Columbia (Channel 3)

Wednesday @ 6 pm

Springfield (Channel 26)

Wednesday @ 7:30 pm

642,000 Households can see Laborvision

Pro-Vote in the News



Activists with **Missouri Pro-Vote** and several elderly groups plan to gather outside the Social Security Administration Wednesday morning to press U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, R-Mo., on the subject of Social Security. As **Pro Vote's** release states, the 10:30 am event is a "formal request that Talent protect Missouri seniors by opposing any effort to gamble away guaranteed benefits on risky privatization schemes that burden future generations with more debt and reduced guaranteed benefits for seniors and people with disabilities".

—St. Louis Post Dispatch, Sept. 12, 2006

Organizers at **Missouri Pro-Vote** said they expected hundreds to attend a protest Friday evening outside the home of Scott Ward, co-president of Russell Stover Candies, Inc, who will host Bush and other Talent supporters in a \$1,000-per-head dinner (in Kansas City).

—Associated Press, Sept. 7, 2006

Missouri's unions and allied activist groups such as **Pro-Vote** and ACORN have backed a lot of losers in recent elections. But this time, they think they've found a winner in Proposition B, the proposal on the November ballot to increase the state's minimum wage.

—St. Louis Post Dispatch, Aug. 17, 2006

John Hickey, Executive Director of the **Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition**, says that Republicans are promoting "mass disenfranchisement" because African-American voters turned out in large numbers in 2004 and are expected to turn out again this fall because Republican Gov. Matt Blunt cut 100,000 people from Medicaid. "Let's say an 83-year-old woman in a wheelchair is kicked off Medicaid," he says. "Guess what, you don't have a driver's license and can't vote: Tough luck, Grandma."

—Salon.com, Aug. 15, 2006

Missouri Pro-Vote headed to Columbia, Mo, earlier this week to hold an event at the Boone County Senior Center to mark the 71st anniversary of Social Security. About 100 local elderly joined the group.

—St. Louis Post Dispatch, Aug. 15, 2006

Planned Gifts

If you have fought for progressive ideas throughout your life, you may wish others to carry on the fight after you are gone. Please consider a bequest to Pro-Vote from your estate after your passing. Giving to Pro-Vote in your will is an ideal way to ensure that activists keep fighting for working people. Before making any bequest, consult your attorney or financial planner. Please contact Marshall Rowland at Pro-Vote at 314-531-2288 for further information.

Pro-Vote Staff

John Hickey—Executive Director
Marshall Rowland—Systems Manager
Margarida Jorge—Organizing Director
Joanne Bennett—Lead Voter Registrar
Nathan Riding—KC Program Director
Ron Berry—Mid MO Organizer
Julie Terbrock—STL Organizer
Kay Mills—Springfield Organizer
Megan Peterson—KC Organizer

Dawn Berkbigger—STL Organizer
Aaron Margolis—STL Organizer
Rachel Knafo—Development & Admin
Gwenett Gregory—Voter Registrar
Inez Ward—Voter Registrar
Sheena Hill—Voter Registrar
Barbara Pippens—Voter Registrar
Brasil Weekly—Voter Registrar
Shamika Keys—Voter Registrar
Veda Morrow—Voter Registrar
Marcia Lee—Quality Control & Data

E. Maria Frencher—Voter Registrar
Ashli Bolden—Quality Control & Data
Tom Simmons—Voter Registrar
Barbara Bost—Voter Registrar
Glen Burleigh—STL Organizer
Patricia Clay—Quality Control & Data
Angie Evans—Practicum Student
Andrew McDermott—Intern
Antoinette Rice—Voter Registrar
Lydell Anderson—Voter Registrar
Sharon Young—Voter Registrar

Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition (Pro-Vote) is a grassroots political coalition of unions and community groups working to fight the extremist right-wing agenda through issue advocacy, voter mobilization, and progressive electoral strategies.

www.MissouriProVote.Org

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Address Service Requested



Joan Suarez will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at our Progressive Awards Dinner Friday, September 29. Please plan to attend!

KC Pro-Vote Staffer in National News on Photo ID Lawsuit

Pro-Vote staff person Maria Frencher, who is leading our voter registration program in Kansas City, was featured on two national news programs during the week of August 28. First, Maria was interviewed on National Public Radio about the unconstitutional burdens created by the State Photo ID law. Then, three days later, Maria appeared on the Public Broadcasting System's "NOW" television program.

Governor Blunt and the Republican legislature passed this law as a means to disenfranchise low-income, disabled, and elderly voters. Secretary of State Robin Carnahan estimates that about 200,000 Missourians lack the Photo ID required by the law. Fortunately, a state court has just declared the Photo ID law unconstitutional.

Maria's story is a great illustration of the problems with the Photo ID bill. Maria is unable to obtain a birth certificate, since she was given up by her parents at birth. Since she cannot get a birth certificate, she cannot get a state ID, and thus would not be able to vote if this law were re-instated. Maria has been a voter for over twenty years.

PV Opens Springfield Office

Pro-Vote is proud to announce the opening of a new office in Springfield! Southwest Missouri is often considered difficult terrain for progressive groups. However, in November 2004, Springfield had the only legislative seat in Missouri wherein a Democrat, (progressive Sara Lampe, H 138) defeated an incumbent Republican legislator. Southwest Missouri is the fastest growing part of the state. The progressive community hopes to make a big impact on upcoming elections.

Our new office is being staffed by Kay Mills, who previously has worked in both the St. Louis and Kansas City Pro-Vote offices. We are very fortunate to have such an experienced organizer leading our work.

If you live in southwest Missouri and want to be active in progressive politics, call Kay at 417-873-9943 or email her at swmoprovote@sbcglobal.net, and she will put you to work!